

Thursday, January 21, 1999

Arrival of STS-93 payload, Chandra X-ray Observatory, postponed



STS-88 crew returning to KSC for presentation to employees

▲ On Wednesday, Jan. 20, NASA announced the delay of the arrival of the primary payload for STS-93, the **Chandra X-ray Observatory (formerly AXAF)** due to the discovery of potential problems with the printed circuit boards. Favoring a launch delay over risking failure on orbit, NASA announced the delay and said an investigation was underway to determine the number of boards affected. As a result, launch will be delayed at least five weeks from the planned early-April date. If engineers find that circuit boards in various parts of the spacecraft's command and telemetry units must be replaced, a more extensive launch delay may result. Built by TRW, the Chandra X-ray Observatory will help astronomers worldwide better understand the structure and evolution of the universe by studying powerful sources of X-rays such as exploding stars, matter falling into black holes and other exotic celestial objects. X-radiation is an invisible form of light produced by multimillion-degree gas. Chandra will provide X-ray images that are 50 times more detailed than previous missions. At more than 45 feet in length and weighing more than five tons, it will be one of the largest objects ever placed in Earth orbit by the Space Shuttle. For more information on the observatory, you can go to the Web site <http://chandra.harvard.edu/press/index.html>.

▲ **All KSC employees are invited** to attend a **presentation** by the STS-88 crew from **noon to 1 p.m.** on Friday, **Jan. 22**, in the Training Auditorium. The astronauts' presentation will include video and slides about their mission to assemble the International Space Station, one of the largest and most complex international cooperative science and engineering ventures in history. The STS-88 crew members are Commander Bob Cabana, Pilot Rick Sturckow, and Mission Specialists Nancy Currie, Jim Newman, Jerry Ross, and cosmonaut Sergei Krikalev, representing the Russian Space Agency.

Expo Today: The third annual Community Services Expo is being held today, Jan. 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the **O&C Mission Briefing Room** and the **LCC Lobby**. Employees can learn more about the services provided by up to 57 United Way agencies in the community as well as volunteer activities. Center Director Roy Bridges opens the Expo at 10 a.m. in the O&C and 11 a.m. in the LCC.

Engineering Awards: The Canaveral Council of Technical Societies (CCTS) is accepting nominations for Engineer of the Year and Engineering Achievement. The **deadline** for nominations is Monday, **Feb. 8**. For more information and applications, contact Gene Hajdaj, 861-4780.

Did You Know? Each of the Shuttle's solid rocket motors burns 5 tons of propellant per second, a total of 1.1 million pounds in 120 seconds (2 minutes). The speed of the gases exiting the nozzle is more than 6,000 miles per hour, about five times the speed of sound or three times the speed of a high-powered rifle bullet. The plume of flame ranges up to 500 feet long.

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